

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LISBON 00940 191702Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMI-01 OES-05 COA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 INT-05 CG-00

DOT-00 EPA-04 NSF-02 L-02 SAM-01 CEQ-01 COME-00 /062 W

----- 097473

R 191404Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY CAMBRIDGE MASS

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

SECSTATE WASHDC 1794

AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS LISBON 940

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, EFIS, PO

SUBJ: OPORTO OIL TANKER DISASTER

REF: (A) 311845Z JAN 75 SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 522

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED DR HERCULANO VILELA, NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR FISHERIES, CONCERNING REFERENCED DISASTER. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL CONCERNING DANISH TANKER

"JAKOB MAERSK":

(A) HUMAN CASUALTIES - 5 CREW MEMBERS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD, ONE DIED IN HOSPITAL FROM BURNS, 4 OTHERS SERIOUSLY INJURED WITH BRUNS.

(B) INCIDENT DATE, TIME, LOCATION - BETWEEN 1300 AND 1400 HOURS, JAN 29, AS TANKER STRUCK SAND BANK WHILE ATTEMPTING ENTER LEIXOES (PORT FOR CITY OF OPORTO).

(C) TANKER SIZE, REGISTRY, OWNERSHIP -48,252 GROSS TONS, 31,284 NET; DANISH REGISTRY; PROPERTY OF COPENHAGEN SHIPOWNING FIRM A.P. MOLLER.

(D) PORTS OF DEPARTURE, ARRIVAL - CRUDE OIL FROM PERSIAN GULF DESTINED FOR SACOR REFINERIES IN OPORTO AND LISBON.

(E) TANKER CAPACITY - 88,000 TONS (IT WAS CARRYING 85,000

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LISBON 00940 191702Z

TONS AT TIME OF ACCIDENT).

(F) CAUSE OF EXPLOSIONS - COLLISION ON SAND BANK WHILE MANEU-

VERING TO ENTER PORT, WITH SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS FOLLOWING.
(G) OIL SPILLAGE - CARGO A TOTAL LOSS; MAJOR PORTION BURNED, BUT SOME OIL IN SUBMERGED TANKS IS GRADUALLY LEAKING OUT.
(H) CLEAN-UP AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES - SURVIVING CREW MEMBERS PULLED FROM WATER BY PORTUGUESE TUGS ON SCENE; LOCAL AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED PREVENT SPREAD OF POLLUTION TO COAST BY DISPERSING STRAW TO ABSORB OIL.
(I) ORGANIZATIONS INVESTIGATING INCIDENT - RESPONSIBLE GOP AUTHORITY IS COORDINATING CABINET OF SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR FISHERIES (MIN OF ECONOMY).

2. DR VILELA SUPPLIED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DATA:

(A) LOCAL AUTHORITIES' EFFORTS INVOLVED NO REPAT NO ATTEMPT COMBAT FLAMES, WHICH DIED NATURALLY NIGHT OF JAN 31-FEB 1. FAILURE TO ATTACK FIRE WAS DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY IN OPORTO AREA OF SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES (EXPENSIVE) DETERGENTS. ONLY PLACE IN PORTUGAL WHERE DETERGENTS PRESENT IN QUANTITY IS FARO, ON SOUTH COAST.
(B) BECAUSE OF POTENTIALLY GRAVE THREAT DISASTER POSED TO LOCAL FISHERY INDUSTRY, MATTER HANDLED BY GOP AS FISHERIES MATTER. ON THIS BASIS GOP CONTACTED FAO IN ROME TO REQUEST HELP. FAO PROVIDED NAME OF SWEDISH EXPERT, ARNE JERNELOV OF SWEDISH LABORATORY ON AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, WHOM PORTUGUESE CONTACTED AND WHO ARRIVED LISBON WITH TWO OTHER SWEDISH EXPERTS FEB 2. EXPERTS TO SURVEY EXTENT OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DAMAGE.
(C) PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION OF PORTUGUESE FISHERY EXPERTS-- SAMPLES OF FISH TAKEN FROM AFFECTED AREA ARE EDIBLE.
(D) LAND CATASTROPHE AVOIDED BY GOOD LUCK, AS LAND BREEZE PREVAILED DURING COURSE OF CONFLAGRATION. SACOR REFINERY INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED NEAR SHORT DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF BURNING TANKER.
(E) LOCAL INHABITANTS WERE WARNED AWAY FROM PORT AREA, BUT CURIOSITY SEEKERS FLOCKED IN NEVERTHELESS. SOME MILD CASES OF POISONING (FROM AIR POLLUTION) REPORTED.

3. ARTICLES CURRENTLY APPEARING IN PRESS INDICATE EXTENSIVE BEACH POLLUTION ALONG 30 KMS OF COASTLINE HAS FOLLOWED IN DISASTER'S WAKE, WITH ADDITIONAL DAMAGE FEARED AS SUBMERGED HULK CONTINUES TO DISCHARGE OIL NEAR COAST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LISBON 00940 191702Z

4. PLEASE NOTE DR PEDRO GUERREIRO DO FRANCO, TROPICAL AQUATIC BIOLOGY CENTER, DIED THREE YEARS AGO.
CARLUCCI

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, CARGO SHIPS, SHIP ACCIDENTS, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0116
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750232/aaaabcpz.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 311845Z, 75 JAN 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPORTO OIL TANKER DISASTER
TAGS: SENV, EFIS, PO, (VILELA, HERCULANO)
To: SMI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006